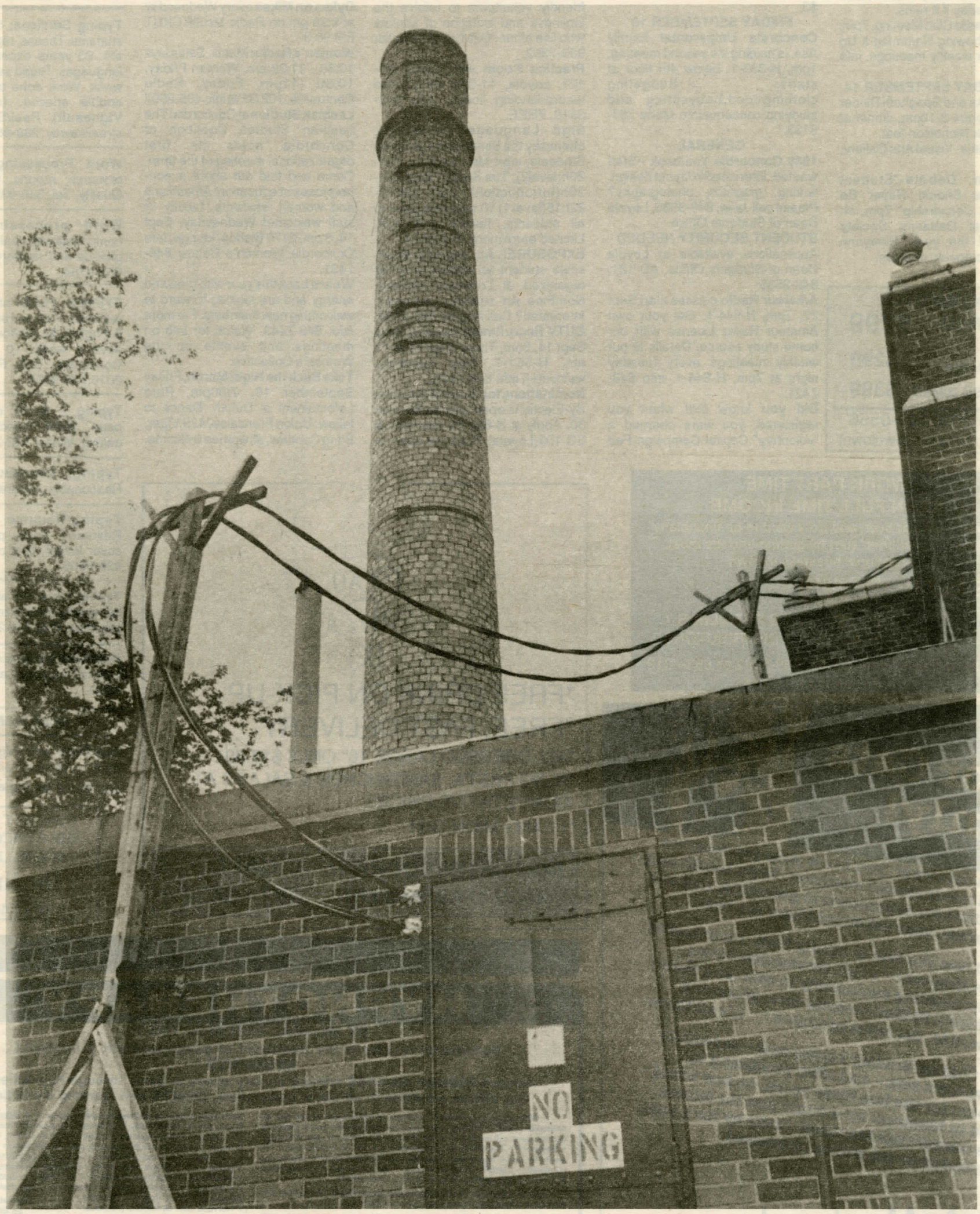
A toxic timebomb ticking away?

PCBs at Concordia



the Link

News feature
inside centrespread

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Volume 9, Number 4
Tuesday, September 13, 1988

Agenda

Use the Agenda to publicise any Concordia-related event. Drop off your info at our offices at Sir George(H-649) or mail it in, indicating Agenda on the envelope. **Deadlines are** 5 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issues and 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday issues.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13

The Link & Urban Studies Students Assoc sponsor the Mackay Street Fair and Beer Garden, noon - 6pm, clubs, games, beer, entertainers. On Wednesday if it rains.

Amateur Radio Club Meeting, 7pm, H-644-1. Showing Hamming It Up video at our weekly meetings. info 848-7421.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14

50 cent flicks and Spaghetti Dinner Campus Centre 3-10pm, dinner at 6pm. A Jack Nicholson fest.

Fine Arts Gala- Visual Arts Gallery, 7:30 pm.

Exhibition Debate-"Student Publications Should Never Be Subject To Censorship" 7pm, H-333-6. First Debating Society meeting of the year. Everyone welcome, to speak, or listen.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15

Women's Centre Opening Party, 2020 Mackay, 4-8 pm.

Loyola Clubs Day, Campus Centre, noon - 6pm.

Mike Duffy, H-110, 7:30pm.

Vernissage for Paterson Ewen Show at Concordia Art Gallery, 7:30pm, all welcome.

Test Pattern Game Show, Campus Centre Loyola. One free beer to the first 150 people. 99 cent Blue. 8pm, $3.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16

Concordia Uniparental Family Ass. is holding it's second meeting, 1pm, H-333-1, below 4th floor at stairs. Budgeting clothing,food,babysitting and studying concerns.info Marie 767-8133.

GENERAL

1989 Concordia Yearbook - Staff wanted. Interested in layout design, writing, graphics, photography? Please call Jane, 848-3535, Loyola Dean of Students Office.

STUDENT SECURITY NEEDED - Applications available at Loyola Dean of Students Office, AD 121, 848-3535.

Amateur Radio classes start Sept 27, 7pm, H-644-1. Get your own Amateur Radio License with our home study course. Details at our weekly meetings every tuesday night at 7pm, H-644-1. info 848-7421.

Did you know that when you registered, you were charged a "voluntary" Capital Campaign Fee of $1 per credit ($30 per full-time student)? If you want a refund, just go to either CUSA office and fill out a form(H-637 at Sir George or the basement of the Campus Centre.)

Paterson Ewen: The Montreal Years, at the Concordia Art Gallery, Sept 15-Oct22. FREE. 70 drawings and paintings from the late 40s to the end of the 60s, landscape to geometrics.

The Good Shepherd Centre needs friendly volunteers to releive the lonliness and isolation of seniors who live alone. Call Cathy Boisclair 933-7352.

Practice Room with piano, AD-121, Loyola, 11-3pm daily. Also record-lending library. Info 848-3510. FREE.

Sign Language Workshops, offered by the Services for Disabled Students, start Mon Sept 26, 18h-20h(level2), Tue Sept 27 from 18h-20h(Introduction) and 20h15-22h15(level 1) 10 sessions, open to all students, faculty and staff. Limited enrollment. 848-3524.

EXPOSURE! An ongoing small-scale student art exhibit is being organized at Lonergan College. Non-Fine Art students preferred. Interested? Call Angela 848-2280.

CUTV Recruitment meeting, Wed Sept 14, 3pm, Thurs Sept 15 at 11 am. H-651-1. New members welcome!! info 848-7403.

Nominations for Board of Directors By-Elections open until September 30. Apply at H-637(Sir George) or SC-103(Loyola). Positions open on BOD for Fine Arts and Engineering students.

Renee Chevalier: works at UQAM Gallery. 1400 Berri, J-R120, until September 18. FREE.

WOMENS' LISTINGS

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs concerned, bilingual,women, interested in volunteering on the telephone crisis line. Training session September 17. Info 934-4504.

Dykes on Mikes every Wednesday at 2:30 pm on Radio McGill CKUT FM 90.3.

Women's Radio: Matrix, Saturdays 10:30 - 11:30 am. Woman Friday, 10:30 -11pm, Friday. Radio Centreville, 102.3 FM info 495-2597

Lesbian Studies at Concordia! The Lesbian Studies Coalition of Concordia holds its first organizational meeting of the term. Come and find out about a non-heterosexist education! All lesbians and women, students, faculty or staff welcome! Wednesday, Sept 14, 3 pm, 2170 Bishop, lounge. Info Concordia Women's Centre 848-7431.

We are back this year with renewed energy and are looking forward to welcoming new members. For more info: 848-7443. Watch for info on meetings and events on the Women's Collective.

Take Back the Night March, Friday September 16, 7:30pm, Parc Lafontainem at Duluth. Dance to follow: Union Francaise, 429 Viger. Bring Candles, all women welcome.

Safety Skills for women workshops, September 17-18, Registration at Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Classified

Classified rates: 20 cents per word for Concordia students, 25 cents per word for others. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issues and 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday issues. Drop off add and payment in room H-649.

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Accurate typist for term papers. Loyola Campus. Call Valerie, 485-1282.

HELP WANTED

Part-Time and Night Students - want to fill your empty pockets?

continued on page 8

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Confusion and long delays

Library mess angers students

by Mike Orsini

Students at Loyola are fuming over slow service and loud noise caused by construction at the Vanier library.

The $9.2 million extension and renovation of the library, which should have been finished in March, won't be completed until well into the academic year.

About 90,000 social science books were unavailable for a week while they were being moved from the basement of the library to the third floor of the new extension.

Although the books were made available again yesterday, it will take at least an hour for library workers to find books requested by students.

But some students are not very satisfied with the new system.

"It seems kind of absurd. I don't want to sit around and twiddle my thumbs for an hour," said exercise science student Martin Chisholm.

"Nothing seems organized. You can't even study," mathematics student Linda Park said. "This sure isn't a good way of promoting the university — I just may go to McGill next year."

"I'm glad I'm not a political science or journalism major, seeing as they're going to have an especially tough time getting a hold of books," said third-year accounting student Suzanne Fortin.

Many students are also complaining about the constant drone of construction noise.

"During examination time the noise was terrible. I couldn't even hear myself think, let alone study. It was extremely disturbing," Fortin added. She hopes the same problems don't resurface during exam time this semester.

Services Vice-Rector Charles Giguere, who originally forecasted completion of the extension by this summer, said the university had no choice but to allow construction to continue into the semester.

"The other option would have been shutting the library entirely," he said. "The noise is a problem but it is something we will have to contend with for the next few months."

Fortin doubts whether the administration really has students interests at heart. "You really wonder what the administration is concerned about — what you can learn or their budget," she said.

"I pay $75 for a course and I expect the services of a librarythat functions properly," exercise science student Martin Chisholm said.

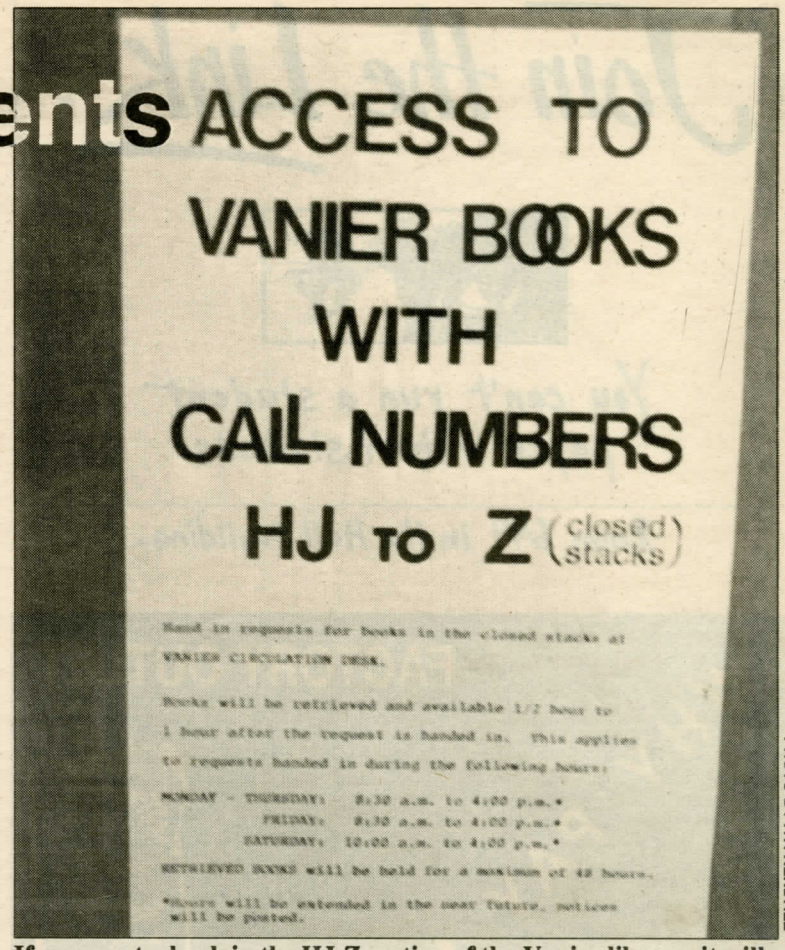


PHOTO BY ITA KENDALL

If you want a book in the HJ-Z section of the Vanier library, it will take a library employee an hour to find it.

Boycott planned

Cafeteria upsets students' stomach

by Heidi Modro

Concordia student council co-president Andrew Madsen is threatening to boycott the downtown campus cafeteria if it doesn't improve service and pay its employees better wages.

"We don't think students are getting a good deal from their cafeteria," Madsen says. "If things don't improve in the long run we'd even go so far as to boycott Marriott."

Madsen said CUSA is trying to negotiate with the university and its food services company, Mariott, to get a better deal. Madsen said student employees deserved to get better pay.

"Students working there are being exploited," Madsen said.

"This isn't McDonald's here. Students deserve better working conditions in their own university."

Student working at the cafeteria are paid Quebec's minimum wage, $4.55 per hour.

"Most chains offer minimum wage, because we're operating with such a tight profit margin," said Hall cafeteria services director Michel Marleau. "That's the best we can do."

Concordia's cafeteria has traditionally gotten bad reviews from students.

"For anyone the least bit calorie or vitamin conscious, the cafeteria is not a good place to go," said commerce student Nathalia Witkowski.

"Even the supposedly healthy salads have horribly unhealthy dressings to go with them."

Math student Joe Serruya said he dreads going to the cafeteria.

"The smell of the grease is just revolting when I go up there," he said. "I'd like to see some kosher food."

"With the amount of money the university and Mariott are making, it's not too much to expect better service," he said.

"We feel very good about our food quality," Marleau said. "We feel we should merchandise it better so that the customer can realise its value more."

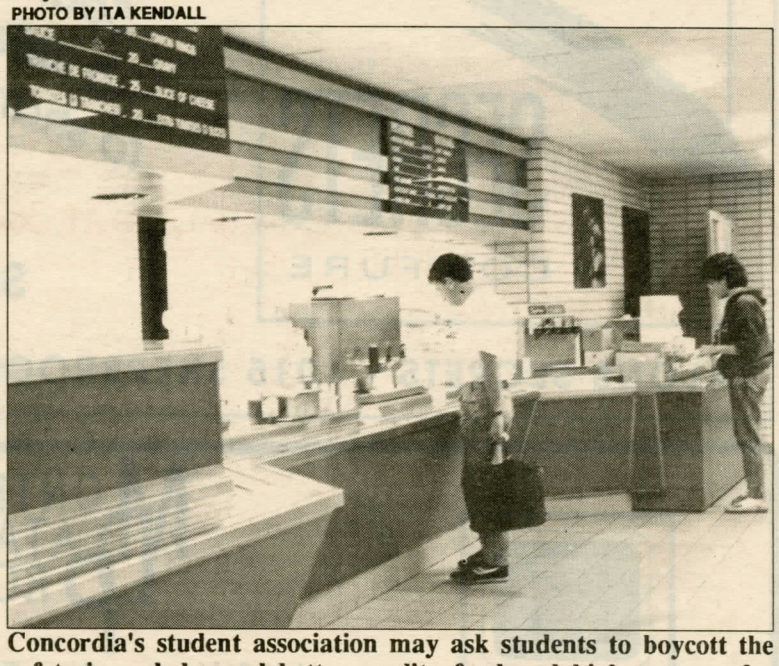
"Our costs went up slightly over 3 per cent the past year and therefore we asked the university if we could increase our prices and they authorized it," he said.

"The cafeteria is a business service for students. Its just like a restaurant would be," said ancillary services director Doug Devenne, who acts as a liason between Concordia and Mariott.

Concordia recently agreed to renew a three year contract with Mariott which will expire in 1992.

"We are satisfied that what needs to be improved can be improved in the cafeteria," Deveene said. "Our frustration is that quality is such a subjective term."

PHOTO BY ITA KENDALL



Concordia's student association may ask students to boycott the cafeteria and demand better quality food and higher wages for employees.

News Tips — 848-7405

Is there a news story you think *the Link* should cover?
Are you pissed off about the way something is done at Concordia?
Having a problem with the university's bureaucracy?
Is a professor smoking during your class?
Has a professor scheduled an exam during the last week of school?

If you have a news tip, call the Link news hotline.

News Briefs

Students beat the system

Toronto(CUP)—At least two students have used university of Toronto library computers to erase their fines.

Students can use terminals to look up book titles. But the computers, installed last year, allow anyone who knows the password to go right into the library's fine records.

A fourth year student at U of T's Victoria College learned how to get into the system after a friend watched Sigmund Samuel library employees erase fines.

"He went up to someone and asked to see his fines and then watched to see what keys she punched," the student said. "It was just a matter of getting past the (reference program) on the terminals."

Another student in their fourth year at the U of T's University College, admitted that an employee of the Engineering library erased her fines although she had not paid.

The password has now been changed, and the terminals access to records will be cut off.

"We weren't aware that this was going on," said U of T Associate Librarian Peter Clinton. Normally the security of any computer is only as good as the people who know the password."

One of the students who has cracked the system says he thinks it happens regularly.

"I just asked someone who worked at the library and she gave me the password quite freely and without hesitation. She said it was quite common."

Clinton and Cozzy refuse to estimate possible lost revenues. But clinton remains confident that any lioss is minimal.

"We haven't seen any pattern of change in fine revenues," he said.

Need help with a term paper?

Students having problems writing papers will have somewhere to turn this semester.

A free peer-tutoring program open to all students is being set up by the university's guidance department.

The program will stress individual tutoring and provide practical feedback so students gain confidence in their writing, said guidance counselor Mary Mar. But the tutors — who will be trained by the guidance department — will not be proofreading papers. Instead, they will be helping students improve their writing.

"It is a program for every student at the university who writes," said Mar, who organized the program.

Beginning September 19, students will be able to sign up for one hour sessions. Appointments will be available daily for sessions between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. (On Wednesdays sessions will go on until 7 p.m., and Fridays until 3 p.m.)

More information is available at 848-3545.

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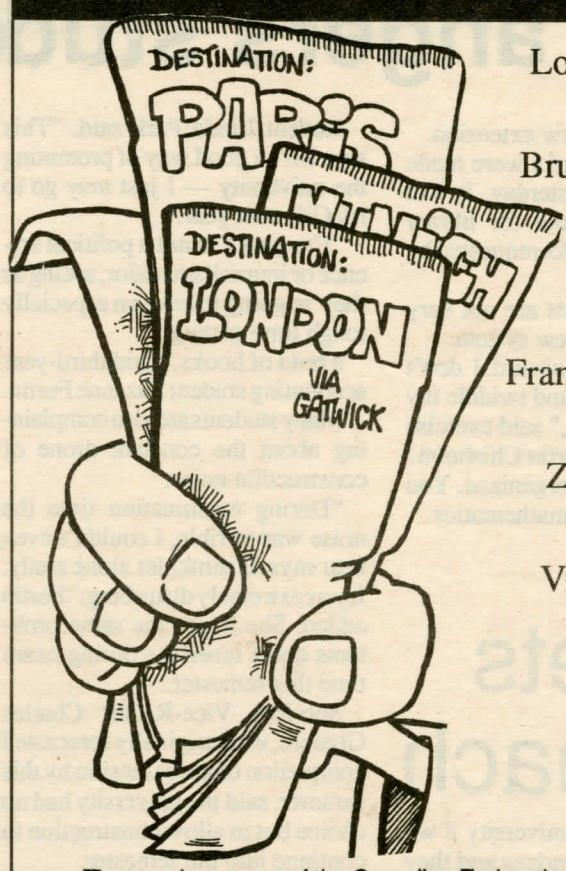

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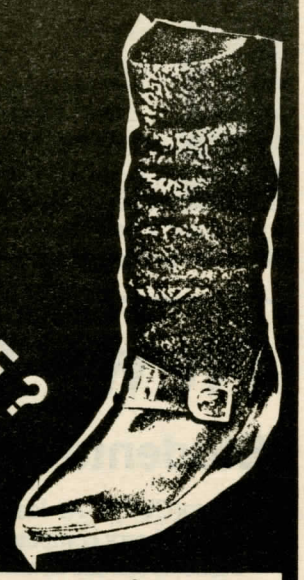

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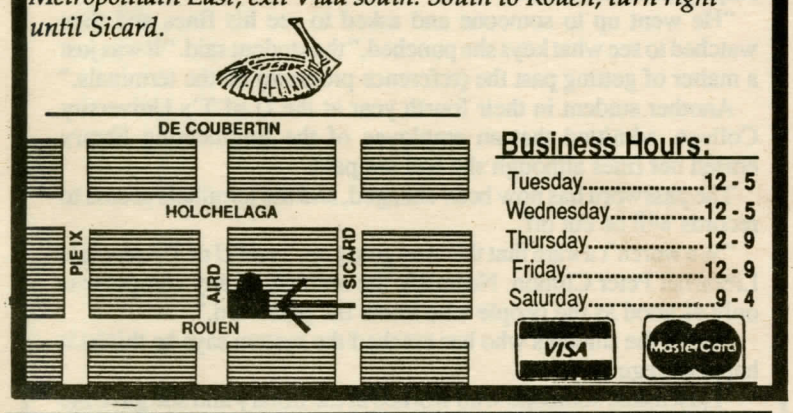

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OMBUDS OFFICE - EVALUATION

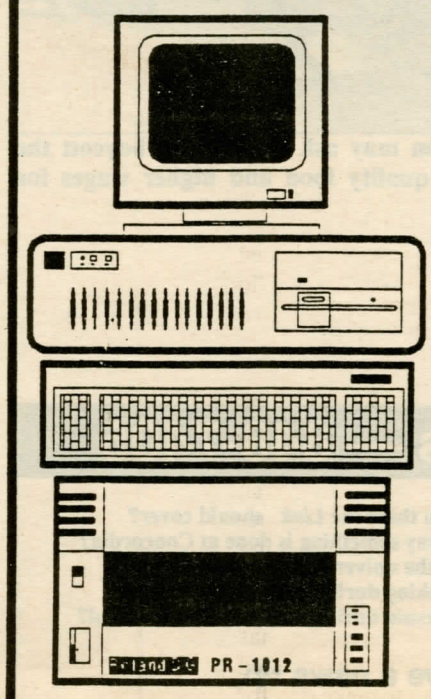
The Ombuds Office is currently undergoing an evaluation which includes an assessment of its service to the university community.

Students, staff or faculty members who wish to make submissions to the external evaluator are invited to forward their comments by September 30 to:

Prof Carolyn Stieber
Ombudsman

Michigan State University
101 Linton Hall, East Lansing
MI 48824 USA
Tel: (517) 353-8830

All submissions must be signed and should include a telephone number



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Letters

Link "CUSA bashing"?

to the editors,

In response to your article of September 6th - CUSA Rips Handbook - the Link has failed to report the complete story and has only reported the handbook editor's side of the story. Also, this article indulged in "CUSA bashing," by printing lines like: "The people who pulled it out are hypocrites because they all have their own petty political causes,... Who the hell do they think they are judging me or the editorial." The editorial was removed for political reasons because of its inflammatory nature. This handbook was meant to be apolitical but in recent years has taken on political overtones because of different editor's beliefs.

In regards to the photograph of a man's butt and its removal - the reasons for its removal were also political. Sportza says, "They see a bum and they preach moral and pure values..." The picture was not removed for its supposed artistic or moral intentions. The juxtaposition of the photograph made it apparent that its inclusion was politically motivated and deliberately insulting to the engineers and in passing to the Fine Arts associations. The article also failed to mention that it was more than a picture of a man's butt; it was a red-eye (photograph of buttocks and anus) and can be considered tasteless and had no aesthetic values.

In regards to the charge of censorship, we reserve the right to edit our own publications much like all other publications do. This is not a case of suppressing somebody's artistic rights, right to freedom of information or freedom of expression. The editor of the handbook was given guidelines to follow and failed in his job.

Nick Woollard, CUSA co-president, and nine other CUSA board members and executives

An asshole is an asshole is an asshole...

to the editors,

How naive can people be? If the average student has made it all the way to university without seeing a person's asshole, then it's about time they did.

It is extremely unfortunate that our Dudlee Doright censors AS-Sumed that such a photograph was inappropriate for the handbook, for it had the potential to serve as a reminder to new students that they will see many assholes in their years at university - assholes of the human sort that are bigger, meaner, uglier and far more dangerous than the one in that picture. In other words, look out kids - if you think that's offensive, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

A.K. Kolb

Weenie vs. big salami

to the editors,

What does Paul Gott got that other people don't got?

In his latest Reargarde issue, Gott has a royal fit over a Montreal Daily News series on skinheads because it seems he, a "prominent member of the underground", was not interviewed.

I'm responding here because Reargarde is kind of irregular and the debate involves the Concordia community.

Why should I or anyone chase Paul Gott's thoughts just because he shaves his bald head? The skinheads in question are mainly runaways, wrong side of the tracks punks, fleeing the law. They are the same white power skinheads attacking people in France, England, Toronto, Chicago and even now Moscow.

They are street people being organized around Nazi and white power. That's what makes them so dangerous. When the skins attack, they injure and sometimes even kill.

On the other hand, Paul Gott is a guy famous for spending his entire adult life in small university rooms on university campuses listening to records. From the sound of it, no one can listen to a record like Gott. Although he publishes a pretty good magazine (does it have the same cover every issue?) Paul Gott is about as underground as the chairman of the Concordia English department.

Gott seems to suggest the skinhead attacks are the work of illegitimate "asshole" skinheads, not respectable Marianopolis skinheads such as himself.

Maybe next time a member of the black community finds themselves surrounded by 5 white power skins, they can take comfort in Gott's decree that these are not real skinheads, just fakers.

Maybe the 18 year old woman who was raped, her throat cut open with a piece of glass by skinhead Gavin Evento, 19, last June would care that it was merely the work of a cheap poseur. Maybe in the future anyone assaulted by skinheads should ask to see their Paul Gott TRUE skinhead identity card first.

Being a racist bonehead is one thing. If Paul Gott is mad because certain skinheads are giving his "prominent undeground" hairdo a bad rep.

Too bad for him.

They may be twisted, but at least they're half real.

If he, the all-knowing big salami of the underworld, recognizes that the Daily News skinhead series "points out a poblem", why didn't Gott write it himself?

Albert Nerenberg

Parking patron perturbed

to the editors,

I would like to address the issue of parking at Loyola in this letter. Parking passes at Loyola for the past few years were often not available until the second week of classes or later . This year they went on sale around August 20 or 22 according to one Loyola security guard.

The administration thought they would save time by selling passes early but they did not publicize this action, and as a result all day passes are sold out (except for behind the athletics complex) and less than one dozen evening permits were left by Sept. 7th.

Last year parking on campus was extremely limited due partially to the installation of various pipes. Many 'heavy machinery' type of vehicles were often parked or moving about taking the place of up to three to five parking spaces at one time . Also some parking places were used for dumping and storing mounds of gravel, dirt, soil, and wooden barricades.

In the winter the snow is emoved, instead it is pushed to one side of each lot in tall heaps. At times this can eliminate one entire row of parking per lot. The snow just has to be ermoved or pushed further back (onto grass) to solve this problem.

Two years ago the passes were $20 each for a day or evening pass. The funds apparently went to help subsidize the security guards' salaries and maintenance costs. Last year the price doubled to $40 per permit with no apparent increase in services provided.

When space is limited by construction crews this strips permit holders of their right to park. No warning was given about the construction, last year, nor did anyone know when it would end.

This year the price has not changed, but space is even more scarce. All the parking behind and right beside the campus center has been eliminated to make way for the concert hall construction and parking for construction vehicles and machinery. I hope the university has sold even fewer permits so we can all still squeeze in.

I wonder if plans for the concert hall include any underground orindoor/outdoor parking. I can't imagine what parking would be like on those nights when there is both a concert and an event at the campus center.

One final gripe about parking at Loyola is that a day pass entitles you to park fro early am to 4pm and an evening pass from 4pm to late night (security usually leaves by 9 or 10 pm). If you have a class at 4 pm you can't park at 3:30 pm if you have an evening pass, or if you have a 5:30 class you can't park at 4:30 or 5:00 with a day pass.

If you have a day pass you can't get in before 4 pm and leave your car there at night was the answer I got from a different security guards when I asked how to beat the system.

For those students who have a split schedule with a day and evening class on the same day (long break) or different days, they must buy two passes, choose to suffer parking only days, or only nights, or buy one pass and find a good friend with a big driveway.

One solution might be to create a mid-day pass for people who wish to park at Loyola from, for example, 10 am to 6 om or form 1pm to 8 or 10 pm.

Another solution to assist studentswould be to turn the large lot behind the TJ building at 7315 Terrebone into additional parking facilities just by opening the fence, cutting the weeds growing through the asphalt, and painting a few lines.

All of this would alleviate some parking problems and tension around the Sherbrooke , West-Broadway , Terrebonne, and Westmore area.

Lorin Levine

University plays waiting game

PCBs and other hazardous

by Aaron Derfel

PCBs are still in use at Concordia in electrical equipment but the university does not plan to check for possible leaks of the toxic chemical compound, *the Link* has learned.

The PCBs, which are used as a coolant in condensers and transformers, are located in power substations in the Hall building downtown, and in the Drummand science and the administration buildings at Loyola campus.

There are about 10 gallons of PCB-laced oil in use in the Hall building and 358 gallons at Loyola, according to physical plant director Frank Papineau.

Baldwin refused to let *the Link* review the Hazardous Material Committee minutes.

In response to the PCB warehouse fire in St. Basile le Grand August 22, which forced the 18-day evacuation of 3,500 residents, the provincial and federal governments agreed last Wednesday to phase out PCBs in use by 1993.

Quebec environment minister Clifford Lincoln has said repeatedly that the provincial government would place first priority in removing active PCBs from hospitals and schools.

Papineau said he doesn't know if the active PCBs pose a health risk to students and faculty but added, "the quantities that are there are relatively small and we've handled them the way that the (federal) government has asked us according to their legislation..."

Occupational health and safety co-ordinator Mary Baldwin said her department would not check the PCB sites for possible leaks until the university receives word from Lincoln. She added that the Concordia environment is safe despite the presence of the toxic chemicals, noting that the university has successfully followed provincial and federal guidelines on all hazardous materials in labs and storage sites.

But Baldwin refused to let *the Link* review the university's Hazardous Material Committee minutes, saying the documents are confidential.

According to an Environment Canada list made public last week, high concentrations of PCBs are stored throughout Montreal. Although the university is not listed as a PCB storage site, buildings near the Sir George campus are listed storing large concentrations. Downtown, Brasserie O'Keefe at 355 Peel St. stores 4,032 litres.

The government inventory also reveals that universities across Canada store thousands of litres of the chemical compound on campus. Carleton University in Ottawa, the University of Lethbridge in Alberta and the University of Toronto topped the list, storing more than 1,000 litres each.

Prolonged exposure to PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) can cause liver and reproductive disorders. PCBs are a suspected cancer-causing substance and have been linked to brain and liver cancer in laboratory rats. The chemicals cannot decompose naturally, and can only be destroyed by an incinerator at 1,200 degrees centigrade.

If PCBs burn at any temperature lower, they emit carcinogenic dioxins and furans — which are far more hazardous — into the atmosphere. In the St. Basile le Grand fire, these chemical compounds were released into the air and will eventually enter the food chain of that region.

Physical plant electrician Benny Sitton, who maintains the Hall building substations daily, said he doesn't consider his health threatened by the PCBs.

"Right now they are there and nobody touches them. The condensers look safe to me," he said. "If there were a fire and something blew up, I don't know what would happen to the PCBs inside them."

The electrical equipment was last inspected in February, 1987, by environment Canada. Inspector Patrece Deslisle recommended installing drip pans underneath the equipment in case of a PCB spill. The university installed the pans in March that year. Evironment Canada checks the equipment every three years.

But Greenpeace environmentalist Diane Goulet said the federal government should check them monthly even though the PCBs may be well insulated.

At Concordia, the largest concentration of PCB-laced oil — 250 gallons — is found in tranformers near the boiler room at the back of the Loyola adminstration building. The chemicals are also used in tranformers inside the Drummond science basement.

In the Hall building, less than 10 gallons are active in condensers in the sub- basement and 13th floor. Student lockers as well electrical and mechanical engineering labs are located beside the basement station.

When *the Link* contacted the occupational health and safety office last Wednesday, assistant co-ordinator Nicole Saltiel said she was unaware that PCBs are used in the Hall building sub-basement.

Warning signs have been placed on all condensers and transformers, which are hermetically sealed. The Environment Canada sticker reads: "In case of accident, or spill...contact the nearest office of the environmental protection service."

Graffiti saying "Saint Basile le Grand" is marked on the sticker posted on the door of the 13th floor substation.

The substations contain fire detectors and are guarded by metal doors. Security refused to let a photographer and reporter visit the stations because no one except a physical plant electrician is allowed in the room.

Despite these precautions, a circuit breaker failed in a Hall building substation two years ago, causing some sparks to fly inside the sub-basement room. Although the circuit problem was quickly resolved, there is a chance that a condenser could explode or catch fire.

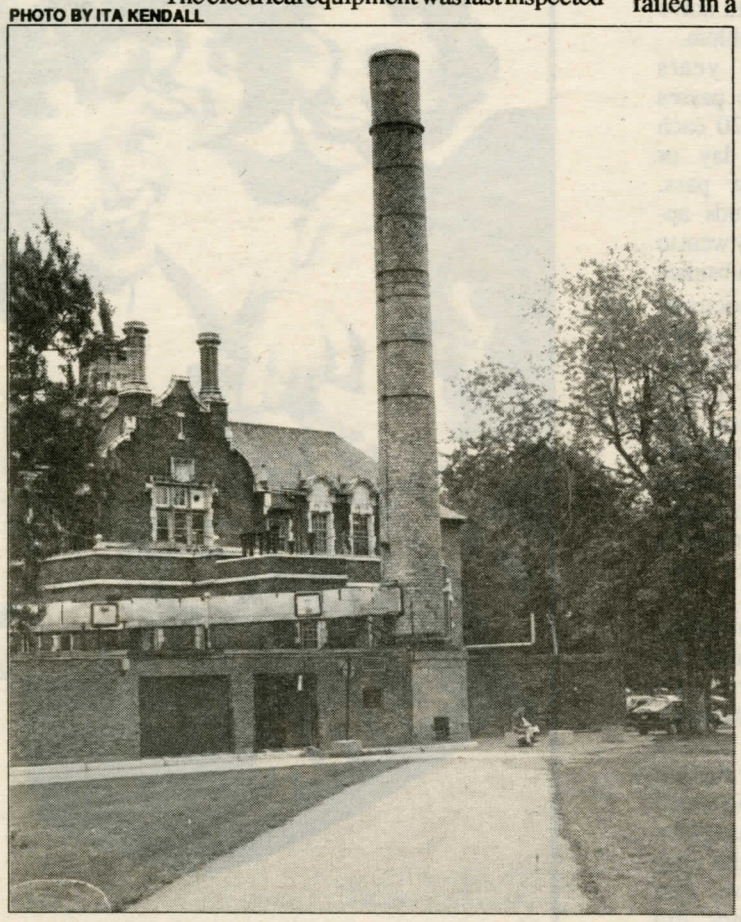
In 1981 in Binghamton, New York, that is exactly what happened. A transformer containing PCB-laced oil caught fire in the basement of an 18-storey building. The fire burned for 45 minutes during which time contaminated soot spread throughout the building. It took more than three years to decontaminate the office tower at a cost of more than $50 million.

Montreal Urban Community fire inspector Gerard Bourdeau said the fact that the Hall building does not have a water sprinkler system and still uses PCBs in electrical equipment poses a double risk.

"When there is a PCB fire, the fumes are dangerous," said Bourdeau. "But if you have sprinklers in the building, for sure you'll have more control with the fire."

The Hall building was completed in 1964, more than a decade before city hall passed a by-law requiring the mandatory installation of water sprinklers in new buildings. The by-law, however, does not force owners to install sprinklers in buildings completed before 1975. Concor-

PHOTO BY ITA KENDALL



Two-hundred-and-fifty gallons of PCB-laced oil are used in transformers in a substation near the Loyola main boiler room.

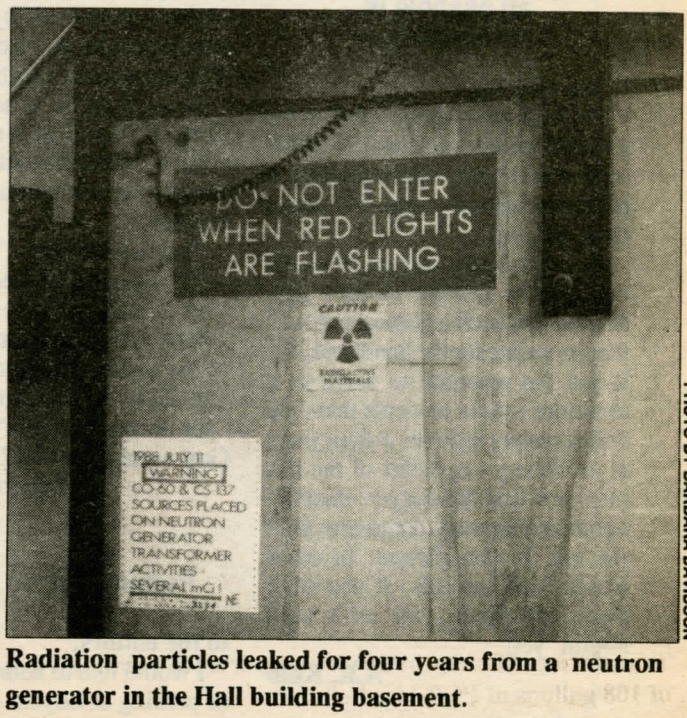


PHOTO BY BARBARA DAVIDSON

Radiation particles leaked for four years from a neutron generator in the Hall building basement.

wastes plague Concordia

PHOTO BY BARBARA DAVIDSON

dia has only installed sprinklers in certain laboratories.

On the average, four minor fires burn in the Hall building each year in such places as garbage cans and chemical labs. Fires have occured on the Loyola campus as well. In December, 1986, two youths set a wood shed on fire on the roof of the Drummond science building. The fire was quickly extinguished by firefighters.

City councillor Nick Auf der Maur, who represents the district which encompasses the Sir George campus, said Concordia should check the PCB areas immediately and then remove the electrical equipment from the campus.

"It should be incumbent upon the university to accelerate the elimination of the condensers, especially since they've had one incident (where the circuit breaker failed)," said Auf der Maur. "When we know that there is a problem with PCBs, we should be a little more definite about people's health."

Baldwin agreed that the Hall building safety conditions should be upgraded. She said her department would like to remove the equipment but cannot find a disposal site.

"We cannot take a transformer and put it anywhere because nobody else will take it," she said. "Also, we have to buy a new one,which is a capital expense, and the provincial government supplies the money for that."

Currently, Canada has only one PCB incinerator, located in Swan Hills, Alberta.

Computer science student Yun Jen, who is organizing an environmental research group at Concordia, said she isdisappointed by the university's decision to wait for a directive from the government.

"How can they just make assumptions like 'Well, we think it's safe?'" she asked. "I'm disappointed that we have a potential danger and not that many students know about it...There's always the worry that they're not taking the proper measures to prevent something like St. Basile from happening again."

While Concordia has emergency procedures in place for a general evacuation, a chemical spill or a radioactive leak, it is still in the process of developing a master emergency response plan. Baldwin said she expects the plan will be ready in six months.

"We are ahead of the game there," she added.

Auf der Maur criticized the ruling MCM party for not speeding up the drafting of a master emergency plan for the island of Montreal.

"What I'm more concerned about is our lack of an emergency plan at the city level in case we have an equivalent of what happened in St. Basile," he added.

Bruno Lafortune, senior federal environment inspector for PCBs in use in Quebec, said that as long as Concordia follows the government's guidelines, students will not suffer from PCB contamination.

"If the equipment is well maintained, there shouldn't be any problem. But accidents can always happen," he said.

The average concentration of PCBs in Canadians is one part per million in fatty tissue.

PHOTO BY STEPHANE CHAGNON

Transformers inside the Drummond science building use a total of 108 gallons of PCB-laced oil.

"It should be incumbent upon the university to accelerate the elimination of the condensers especially since they have had one incident where the circuit breaker failed."

"In somebody more exposed to PCBs, like myself or an electrical worker, maybe he has a bit more," Lafortune added.

PCBs were widely used as coolants and lubricants in paints, caulking and electrical equipment until 1977, when the federal government banned them after fears were raised about their potential health hazards. The government did not outlaw PCBs, which were already in use in transformers and capacitors because it considered the chemicals well protected inside the equipment.

Today, PCBs have been replaced by mineral oil and silicone in electrical equipment.

The worst incident of exposure to PCBs occurred in the town of Yusho, Japan in 1968 when PCBs had accidently leaked into rice oil. Yusho residents spent 20 to 190 days eating food cooked in toxic oil. In the weeks and months following the contamination, residents suffered from fevers, vomiting, eye discharges, and respitory and reproductive problems.

Nurses had discovered that babies born during the period of contamination weighed less than normal. Yusho residents also suffered from hyperpigmentation (browning of skin and nails) and chloracne (extreme skin eruptions).

According to federal inspector Lafortune, the short-term effects of PCBs can be deceiving.

"There do not seem to be any effects on the short term," he noted, "but in the long term over a few generations, if you keep on building up a chemical in your body which is not supposed to be there, you don't know what the effects could be."

Toxic ghosts appear from Concordia's past

Apart from PCBs, Concordia is the home to other hazardous waste materials.

In 1979, *the Link* revealed that a neutron generator in the Hall building subbasement had been leaking minute radiation particles since 1976. The radiation had escaped into an unused telephone relay room next to the generator, which had been shut down in 1978 after being used for physics experiments.

Today, the generator is still in the building but Baldwin said it has been "decommissioned" by the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada, and has passed safety tests by AECB inspectors.

Fire-resistent fibre asbestos, which medical studies have linked to cancer of the lung and asbestosis (a chronic lung disease), is found in the Hall and Norris buildings as well as the Guy annex.

Every ceiling in the Hall building is coated with asbestos. Constructed during the sixties — at the height of asbestos use — the building's ceilings, pipes and steel beams were coatedwith the fibre in large amounts. Most of it still remains.

In October last year, *the Link* revealed that asbestos fibres and dust had been falling off walls in the Guy annex, which was then under renovation. Students and faculty had complained of persistent coughs during the renovation. Saltiel ordered air sample tests of the building, which revealed that the level of asbestos was tolerable by provincial standards.

However, Quebec's acceptable level for asbestos in buildings is among the most lenient in North America.

Chemical control officer Nabil Bissada, who is responsible for maintaining hazardous waste sites on campus, said the university built a radioactive waste materials storage site at the Hall building loading dock last summer.

The site stores radioactive waste accumulated from physics and chemistry labs temporarily until it is transported to McGill University to be condensed. McGill is licensed to collect the radioacitve waste, which ultimately ends up in a permanent storage site in Chalkriver, Ontario.

— by Aaron Derfel

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Comment

Spoiled society ruining the environment

by Randy Orr

The recent fire at a PCB warehouse in St. Basile Le Grand has brought to the front pages of th e press, headlines that spell out the problem of enviromental pollution caused by the disposal of wastes. But this was hardly an isolated incident. All yeart, enviromental issues have been in the paper. Stories about the loss of the ozone layer, the closure of ocean beaches in th eU.S. because of sewage in the ocean and the problem of finding places to store the tremendous amount of grabage produced by Metropolitan Toronto. time, and Newsweek magazines have both had special issues dealing with the inability of the enviroment to deal with the ever growing anmount of wastes produced by modern society. It seems obvious that an enviromental crunch is approaching, but few are willing to do anthing to head it off.

Usually, such as in the St. Basile incident, it is the government which is blamed for what happens. Criticism of government policy is often justified but this commentary wishes to shift some of the responsibility back to the individual. When it comes to the enviroment and our destruction of it no one can remain indifferent. Each one of us must take some responsibility for the pollution caused by ourselves and our society.

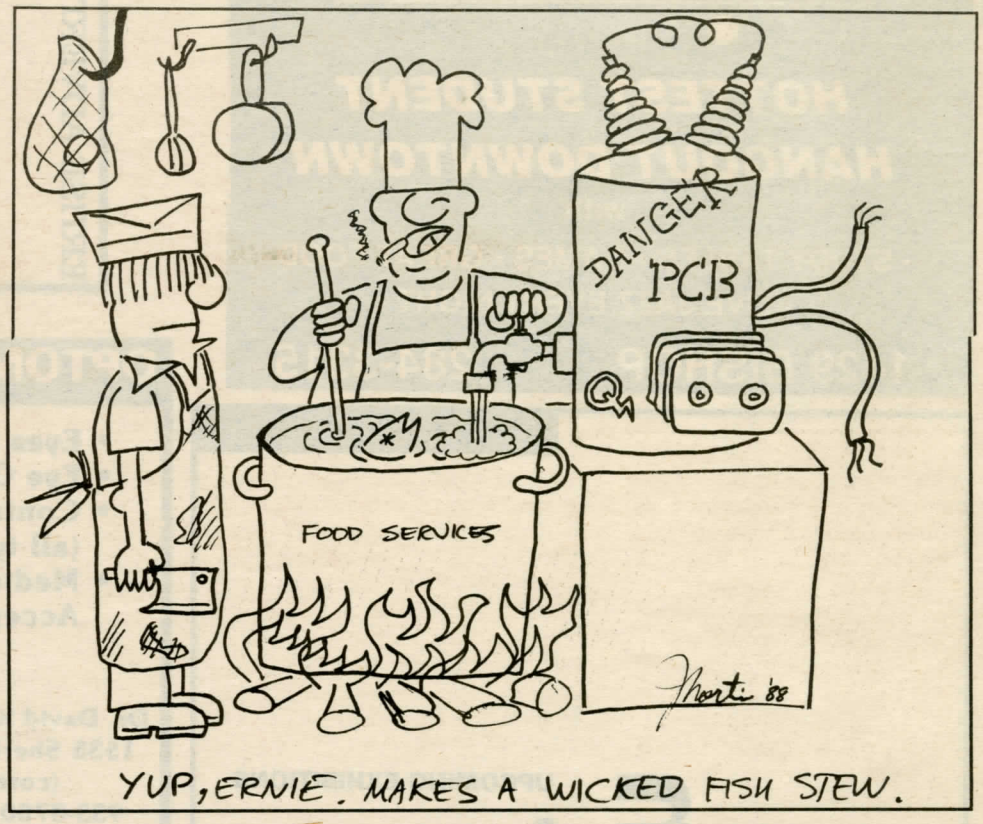
We live in a materialistic, disposable society, where the material well being of the individual is viewed as the ultimate goal. But is it really necessary for everyone to have 2 or 3 color televisions at home, a microwave, electric can opener, and 2 cars in the driveway. The tremendous demand for electrical goods has created the high demand for electricity which fuels the political pressures on politicians to approve new hydro and nuclear power projects.

The average citizen, like those in St. Basile or along the seashore of Long Island, often feel that they are powerless to do anything about the situation around them. But we can take some control over our lives and not allow strong economic interests to dictate how we run our lives. However there are individual costs to be made in terms of time and money to achieve thegoal of a less wasteful society. It means a simpler socitety where instant gratification of wants and needs may need to be modifed or delayed.

This does not mean a return to the "good old days" as if they ever existed or that we should give up all the modern conveniences that we have become accustomed to. What it does mean is the education of a more concerned citizen that fights against the unnecessary wastes of modern society. While it is not necessary to become a believer in a back to nature philosophy, there is a balance that needs to be achieved. We cannot expect the government or modern science to solve all the problems of waste. We all need to take stock in what we can do as individuals. Is it really necessary to have coloured toilet paper just because it matches the colour of the walls? Disposable diapers are convenient but using reusable ones. What's wrong with using dishes in restaurents instead of having everything served in disposable containers that when discarded destroy the atmostphere.

Does it take much longer to save your old paper and bottles and send to be recycled or to use public transport instead of the private car?

Responsible individual choices repeated in the millions can help reduce the vast amount of waste in society and reduce the risk of more environmental disasters like the ones we've heard about this summer in New York, Ontario and St. Basile. It's your choice now, soon we may have no choices at all.



Link Staff meetings
Every Friday at 4

Everyone welcome

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Volume 9, Number 4
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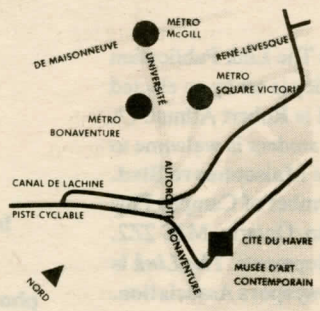

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Sportsbeat

Grappling for Gold

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Canada will be represented by over 350 athletes from across the nation — some of them from our own backyard.

by Paul Porfilio
and Christina Fon

Concordia wrestlers Robert Clark Davis, Lawrence Holmes and Doug Yeates are all headed for the most prestigious event in amateur sports — the Olympic games.

Accompanying them is Concordia wrestling coach Victor Zilberman who is head coach of Canada's national team.

All three athletes are integral members of both Concordia's and Canada's wrestling contingent. All seasoned veterans with vast amounts of experience, they are ready to compete for what is considered by most to be unimaginable — a gold medal in the Olympic games.

Medal Hopefuls

Davis, 31, has represented Canada in the Olympics before, having participated in the 1980 and 1984 games. He placed fourth overall in '84.

Competing in the 100 Kg. class, Davis is one of the team's best athletes and is considered by most to be Canada's top candidate for a medal in Seoul.

"You have to learn to handle the pressure and intimidation tactics used by the opponents to break your concentration," he says. "When you're out there head to head, the one who doesn't crack under pressure and learns to handle his emotions usually wins."

"Luck is also a factor in that the favorite to win the competition may crack under pressure thus leaving a spot for some unknown to climb a notch in the final standings."

Despite the 18 years of rigorous training and competition he still maintains a youthfull appearance.

Born in Calgary, Davis was introduced to wrestling in high school physical education class where he was very successfull. He has been training in Montreal for the past eight years and participated in several World Cup championships placing second on two different occasions.

Davis, who is a sociology student, says that motivation plays a key role in performing at a high level.

"The Olympic games seem to increase an athlete's level of motivation a notch higher and is the reason why you see a lot of good athletes become great athletes." says Davis, who ranks himself fifth in the world.

"If I stay healthy and avoid injuries, I may break the top three," he says.

Nevertheless, Davis believes that medal hopes rest more on the shoulders of the younger members.

"We have a younger wrestler on the team who is ready as far as skill goes, but according to coach Zilberman, is not emotionally apt to handle such a pressure-filled competition, therefore he will not be participating in this year's summer Olympics," Davis says.

"Wrestlers come into their own at about the age of 18, but become much more competitive at approximately 25."

After the Olympics, Davis says he would like to compete one more year before retiring from active competition and focus on a career in the piano business.

Olympic Veterans

The two other athletes under coach Zilberman's tutor — Holmes, 26, and Yeates, 31 — will be participating in their second and fourth Olympics, respectively.

Holmes competed in the 1984 Olympics but didn't place in the final rankings. This year he is expecting to do a little better.

"All I'm expecting is a good performance," says Holmes. "I don't have a track record like Robert. I just want to do the best I possibly can."

The Thorhill, Ontario native came to Montreal in 1983 because he wanted to train under the guidance of coach Zilberman.

"Victor's athletes were always so successfull. I decided to take advantage of his vast experience and knowledge of the game so I came here to grow and learn more about the game," explains Holmes, who will be competing in the 57 Kg. class.

Holmes became interested in wrestling because his older brother was involved in the sport.

He began his formal training when he was 16-years-old and says he would like to go on competing for a few years after the '88 games. When his wrestling career comes to a close, the education student would like to teach.

For Yeates, this will be his fourth Olympic adventure. His best finish was in the 1984 games where he placed fifth overall in his division. Yeates is a serious candidate for a medal after placing fifth in the world championships last year.

Canada's Wrestling Authority

Victor Zilberman has been head coach of the national wrestling team since 1981.

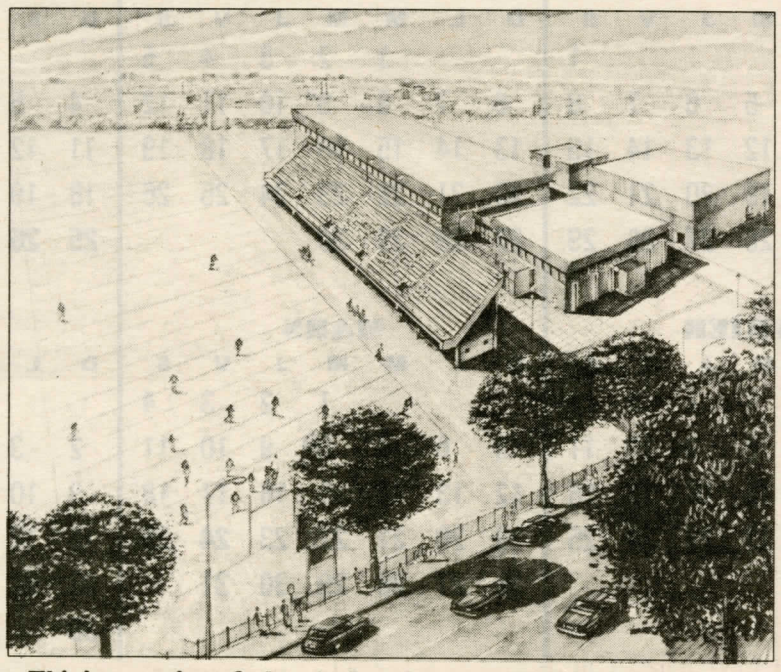
His acute knowledge of the game derives from first-hand competition. During his wreslting days in the Soviet Union, Zilberman had a reputation as a dynamic and unrelenting wrestler with a strong desire for victory.

"I saw Victor wrestle when he was still active competitively and found him to be very dynamic and shrewd," says Davis, one of Zilberman's proteges.

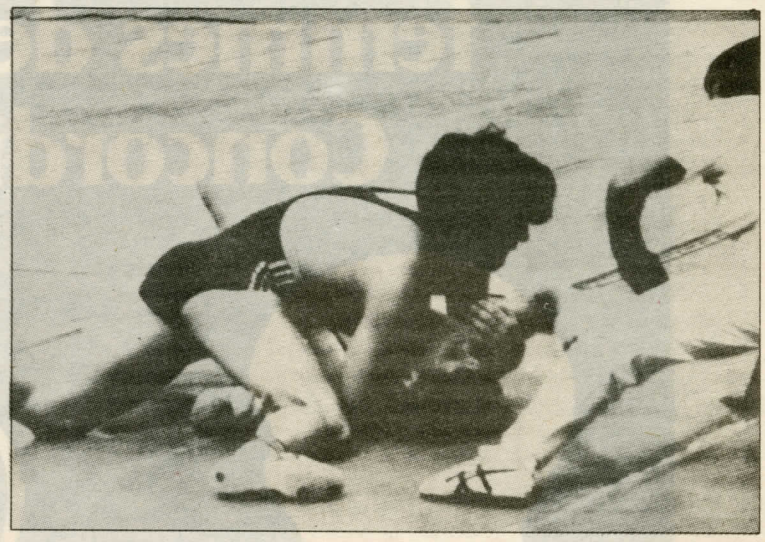
Zilberman was 26-years-old when he arrived in Canada in 1974. He combined coaching and competing for three years at the University of Thunder Bay before abandoning active competition to concentrate on coaching.

He fast became Canada's wrestling authority and is responsible for turning Concordia's wrestling team into one the most successful programs in the country, earning five consecutive CIAU team titles.

Although the Soviet team seems out of reach (they have consitently scored highs on the world circuit), Zilberman is confident Canada will place well in the top ten.



This is a preview of what the Loyola sports field will look like when the new stands are put into place. The stands, which were donated by the city of Verdun, were originally supposed to be ready for the Stingers home opener with McGill on September 17. But because of soil testing, the stands won't be in place until mid-November.



Sports briefs

Pep rally Thursday

A promotional pep rally will be held for the Stingers football team Thursday at 11:30 am in the 7th floor cafeteria at the Hall building.

Many of the Stinger player's will be there serving free corn on the cob with the purchase of a soft drink. Coach Rochette Will be introducing this year's line-up at noon.

There will be a chance to win door prizes including tickets to upcoming games and athletic wear.

Everyone is welcome to drop by and show support for the Stingers.

Disappointing start at Bishop's

The much-touted '88 Stingers began their season in Lennoxville Saturday with a resounding thud.

In their first regular season game, they lost to the Bishop's Gaiters 23-17.

Concordia seemed to be making a come back in the fourth-quarter with two touchdowns in less than four minutes. But The Stingers' final drive was choked off in the final seconds.

Next Saturday the Stingers will try to even their record when they take on the McGill Redmen at Loyola in the Shaughnessy Cup game. (Note the start time 3pm, not 4pm)

Sports Trivia

by Sylvian Bouchard

1- Which NFL running-back led the league in 1987, rushing for 1374 yards?

a) Eric Dickerson
b) Charles White
c) Marcus Allen
d) Curt Warner

2- For the first time in NHL history a player drafted in the first round was recently traded before even playing a single game for his drafting team. Who is he?

a) Chris Joseph
b) Jimmy Carson
c) Martin Gelinas
d) Brett Hull

3- Who to this date is the oldest major league baseball player currently playing?

a) Don Sutton
b) Nolan Ryan
c) Craig Nettles
d) Tommy John

4- Match the following NBA team names with their corresponding cities.

a) Denver	1) Warriors
b) Sacramento	2) Nuggets
c) Golden State	3) Spurs
d) San Antonio	4) Kings

5- What medal did Grande Prairie, Alberta native Willie De Wit win in the 1984 Los Angeles summer olympics ?

a) gold
b) silver
c) bronze
d) was disqualified and didn't win any

Answers on Friday

Answers for last Friday's Sports Trivia:
1. Indianapolis
2. Marcel Dionne
3. Dale Hawerchuk
4. Washington Capitals
5. Clevland Crusaders, Calgary Cowboys, Michigan Stags, Minnesota Fighting Saints, Miami Screaming Eagles, New York Raiders.
6. Boston Bruins. 6 goals, 4 assists.
7. Peter Stastny with 109 points.
8. 8
9. Philadelphia Flyers with 36 wins out of 40 games.
10. 1) Gaston Gingras 2) Mats Naslund 3) Graig Levie 4) Guy Carbonneau

1988

SEPTEMBRE

D	L	M	M	J	V	S
				1	2	3
4	**5**	6	7	8	9	10
11•	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25°	26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBRE

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DECEMBRE

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1989

JANVIER

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MARS

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26	**27**	28	29	30	31	

AVRIL

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30						

Les dates en lettrage **foncé** indiquent les jours de fermeture de l'Université / Dates in **bold** are those on which the University will be closed.

❂ Le 8 mars est la Journée internationale de la femme / March 8 is International Women's Day.

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